

Recycle Food. It's Easy To Do.



King County Food Scrap Recycling

Recycling Tips - How to Get Started at Home

Step #1: Find the best kitchen container for you.

Many kitchen container options exist for collecting food scraps and food-soiled paper, from the simple to the stylish. Options include:

- 100 percent biodegradable bags are available, in some areas, for collecting food scraps. Check www.recyclefood.com frequently to find out if they can be used in your area and where they can be purchased.
- A paper bag. Recycle the bag along with the food scraps in your yard waste cart.
- A reusable plastic container or a metal coffee can with a lid. Empty contents into your cart and reuse the container.
- Ceramic or stainless steel food scrap collection containers. Find these at specialty kitchen shops or online. Many offer a carbon filter in them to eliminate odors. King County residents can purchase a [food scrap container](http://composters.com/kingcounty/kc.shtml) (<http://composters.com/kingcounty/kc.shtml>) at a discounted price through our online sales.
- Several communities offer free or discounted kitchen containers upon request. Visit www.recyclefood.com to find links to promotions in your city.

Step #2: Collect food scraps and soiled paper.

- Communities that offer food scrap recycling accept items such as vegetable and fruit trimmings, egg shells, bread, pasta and coffee grounds.
- Food-soiled paper that is accepted includes paper towels, napkins, coffee filters and greasy pizza delivery boxes.
- Paper that is plastic-coated or wax-coated in any way is not allowed, such as milk cartons and ice cream containers. Plastic coating is shiny. When in doubt throw it out. Contamination increases the cost of recycling.
- You can eliminate odors by placing your food scraps in a paper bag or wrapping scraps in newspaper and storing in the freezer until collection day.
- Most communities in King County also accept meat, fish, poultry, bones and dairy products. Check with your waste hauler to make sure these items are allowed in your yard waste cart.

Step #3: Add them to your yard waste cart.

- Dump the contents of your kitchen container into your yard waste cart frequently.
- To keep your cart clean, line the bottom with newspaper and/or layer your food scraps and food-soiled paper with your yard waste. Using paper bags will also help keep the cart clean.

If you're concerned about odors or fruit flies:

- Empty food scraps into the yard waste cart daily.
- Use a kitchen container with a tight-fitting lid and/or a carbon filter.
- Place your food scraps in a biodegradable bag, paper bag or wrap your food scraps in newspaper and store in the freezer until collection day.
- Rinse out your kitchen container (in your sink) and yard waste container (on your lawn) regularly.
- Line your kitchen container with a scrap of cardboard, paper bag or paper towel.
- Sprinkle baking soda in your kitchen container.